

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196409
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, FR

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

1. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE FOR AUGUST 3 CARRIES AN ARTICLE FROM PARIS WITH HEADLINE THAT GOF'S REORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IS AN APPARENT BID TO END THE OVERLY POLITICAL ROLE OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (SECRETARIAT GENERALE DE LA MARINE MARCHANDE). UNDER THE REORGANIZATION, THE SECRETARIAT WILL DISAPPEAR AND A NEW DIRECTION GENERALE DES TRANSPORTS MARITIME WILL BE ESTABLISHED, PRESUMABLY WITHOUT M. CHAPON OF THE FORMER SECRETARIAT. THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT CHAPON'S PRINCIPAL AREA OF INTEREST HAD BEEN MATTERS AFFECTING SEAMEN AND UNDER THE REORGANIZED MINISTRY A MORE BALANCED APPROACH TOWARDS THE INTERESTS OF THE MERCHANT FLEET OPERATION AND THE SHIPYARDS WOULD BE ADOPTED.

2. COMMENT: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE EMBASSY'S
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COMMENTS ON WHAT THE IMPACT OF THIS REORGANIZATION MIGHT BE ON MESSIEURS LEONARD, DE ROHAN, AND BERNARD WHO HAVE BEEN EB/MA'S PRINCIPAL CONTACTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON FRANCE'S SHIPPING POLICIES WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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